

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg
April 27, 2004

Members Present: Robin Ayers, Laura Helems, Clint Martin, Christy Bishop, Karen Davis, Richard Merryman, Libby Nester, Sandy Haberbosch, Jeannie Elkins, Mary Ann Jenkins, Jim Plitt

Members Absent: Tina Adams, John Hunneshagen, Frank Kirkland, Jane McCallister, Pat Moss, Bob Peck, James Qualls, Bobby Reynolds, Terri Rodighiero, Kevin Smith, Jerri Stephens, Luann Summers, Cheryl Vega, Andrea Workman, Mary Ellen Zeppuhar, Craig Curtis

Staff Present: Steve Wiseman, Jan Lilly Stewart, Jim Cremeans, Betsy Southall

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Laura Helems.

Richard Merryman read the Mission Statement of the Council.

Laura announced that Kevin Smith had surgery in Morgantown and is recovering.

She stated that Linda Higgs is at an Administration on Developmental Disabilities MTARS (Monitoring and Technical Review System) training to review the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council and P&A System.

She announced that Jan, Clint and Sandy will be attending a conference on self-determination/self-advocacy training April 29-30 in Atlanta, GA.

She announced that the Council has purchased a new 10X10 display and an LCD computer projector.

Laura said that Steve and Betsy will be giving a presentation on “Communicating Your Message: Communicating Effectively and Respectfully With and About Vulnerable Populations” at the National Association of Social Workers – WV Chapter Spring Conference on April 30, 2004.

Karen announced that construction has started on her new home.

Steve thanked Clint Martin for agreeing to be a part of the poster the Council put together for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Jan informed the Council that a Partners in Policymaking application was in the packets and asked members to do their best to recruit applicants. Jan said that the Partners application will appear on the backs of McDonald’s tray liners again this year. She thanked Christy for her continued help in coordinating the liners. Jan stated that the deadline for applying for Partners is May 31, 2004.

Steve showed the Council part of the new display that explains the Community Support Model and the Medical Model.

Approval of the October 28, 2003 Minutes:

Jeannie made and Mary Ann seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as written.

Motion carried.

New Business:

Proposed Change to Membership Policy: Laura reviewed the proposed changes to the Membership Policy that clarifies that no Council member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

Sandy made and Christy seconded a motion to accept the changes.

Motion carried.

Financial Update: Steve gave an overview of the current financial status of the Council.

- **Budget** – Council is currently operating within its targeted budget projections. Steve said Council can set aside up to \$ 170,000 to fund grant projects for FY 2005. Also, the Mountain State Center for Independent Living grant for Council expenses has expiring funds that must be spent by 10/31/04.
- **Allotment** – Steve reviewed the history of the Federal allotments over the last 10 years, including the cuts and the newly restored funding. He said that the Council has remained in good financial status because of conservative budgeting during the years of the cuts.
- **Designated Stipends** – Steve stated that, in the current year, the Council funded conferences for APSE (Association for Persons in Supported Employment), Fair Shake Network, Disability Caucus, People First, Community Connections Conference and the WV Autism Society Annual Spring Conference. Last year the Council allowed other organizations to apply for stipend funding. Staff has recommended that **\$16,000** be set aside for stipends for FY 2005.

Robin made and Clint seconded a motion to make available up to \$16,000 for the FY 2005 designated stipend fund.

Nominating Committee Report: Jeannie reported that the Committee received 21 applications for 10 vacancies. Two current members, Craig Curtis (At-Large) and Andrea Workman (Parent) are eligible and were reinstated. Jeannie said that the following persons are recommended for gubernatorial appointments:

Jeff Marr – Kanawha County - person who has a developmental disability.

Jennifer Waybright – Harrison County - person who has a developmental disability and Partner in Policymaking graduate.

Ronald Dean – Kanawha County - person who has a developmental disability and former resident of an institution.

Ulissa Dowell – Mercer County - parent of a son who has a developmental disability.

Richard McGuffin – Cabell County - parent of a son who has a developmental disability.

Ginny Gattlieb – Kanawha County - parent of a son who has a developmental disability.

Christina Smith – Wood County - parent of a daughter who has a developmental disability.

Karen Robinson – Kanawha County - parent of a daughter who has a brain injury and a developmental disability.

Jeannie moved and Libby seconded a motion to accept the nominations for gubernatorial appointees with the exception that if Tina Adams term is ending, she will be re-appointed.

Motion carried.

Laura reminded members whose terms are ending that they are Council members until the new appointments are made.

Election of Officers: Jeannie stated that the Nominating Committee recommends Laura Helems as Chairperson, and Jerri Stephens as Vice-Chairperson.

Robin asked for nominations from the floor.

Jeannie moved and Jim P. seconded a motion to appoint Laura Helems as Council Chairperson and Jerri Stephens as Vice-Chairperson.

Motion carried.

Election of Executive At-Large Member: Jeannie said that the Nominating Committee recommends Pat Moss be appointed to the Executive Committee as an At-Large Member.

Laura asked for nominations from the floor.

Jeannie made and Libby seconded a motion to appoint Pat Moss to the Executive Committee as an At-Large Member.

Other Business:

Training Initiatives Updates:

Guardianship, Wills, Trusts - Steve gave an overview of the Guardianship, Wills and Trusts Initiative. He said that the workgroup has made contact with a consultant in Ohio, the State Attorney General's Office and the State Bar Association. The goal of the workgroup is to hold workshops throughout the state to disseminate information for individuals and families.

On The Outside - Steve said that the ***On the Outside*** school based project has been started with a recent training at Jefferson County High School. Activities are planned at Capitol High School on a limited basis. Mary Ann said that Steve, Cheryl and Libby's presentation at her school (Jefferson Co. HS) went very well, and that school staff who attended were very impressed.

Mary Ann also said that Arla Ralston is scheduled to present at Jefferson County High School on May 21st. One of the teachers at the high school is having her students write an essay on the discrimination of people with disabilities. This program will be combined with some other presentations on discrimination by the school's business partners.

Self-Determination Initiative - Jan gave an overview of the progress of the Self-Determination Initiative workgroup. The group would like to hold 4 – 5 trainings around the state. Jan said that the target audience for the training will be people with developmental disabilities and their families. Jeannie added that the trainings would last 1 1/5 days. Jan said that there would be a distinction made between self-advocacy and self-determination. She discussed a possible collaboration with the Council and members of the WVUCED (WV Center for Excellence in Disabilities).

Richard suggested having Helen Panzaroni come to Martinsburg to get Shifting the Power started.

Emergency Responder Training - Jim C. gave an overview of the Emergency Responder Training Initiative. The work group has met once and Jim has talked to the Interim Director at EMS-TSN, Inc. (Emergency Medical Services-Technical Support Network) advocacy program, the WV Olmstead Project Coordinator, the State ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Coordinator and personnel at the State Fire Marshall's Office. The various program representatives are interested in the Council's efforts and are willing to assist and participate. EMS and Fire Marshall representatives told Jim that some training has been developed related to disabilities.

Legislative Update – Jan gave an overview of the Legislative Update Handout. Please see attached.

Richard stated that there is an ADA office in Martinsburg, WV

Other – Jim C. gave an overview of the Federal reporting requirements for Councils and new information concerning data reporting. Jim said that a performance review assessment by the OMB Office of Management and Budget) called the P.A.R.T. (Program Assessment Rating Tool) has been used to review a number of Department of Human Services programs including the ADD. The P.A.R.T. will eventually be used to assess the Council's program. Jim said that he will be receiving training and more information about new reporting requirements in June.

Christy Bishop stated that the Health Committee is looking for information for a position paper on dental services for people with developmental disabilities. She suggested that anyone who has information that would be useful for the paper should contact Linda. Currently, the focus is on services for adults. A discussion ensued regarding possible cuts in services for children.

Clint began a discussion about changes in benefits for dental and vision services for adults under the Medicaid system.

Service Systems' Issues:

Steve stated that he believes that changes occurring in the disabilities service system will be harmful to people with developmental disabilities.

Construction of New Group Homes in Huntington Area - The DHHR is allowing construction of two new ICF/MR group homes (4 bed) in Huntington. Individuals from the Green Acres Regional Center (GARC) will be relocated to the facilities. The activities in Huntington are the unsatisfactory result of recommendations by a Commission (Court Monitor created) that was established to address the congregate living problem at the GARC main campus. It is a large, segregated institutional setting located in rural Cabell County. Steve and others believe that the building of new ICF/MR facilities violates long standing Hartley (class action) related policies and State Health Plan (managed by the Health Care Authority) that prohibit building of new ICF/MR facilities.

Libby raised some concerns about her daughter's personal experiences with the Green Acres facility.

Steve said that the Olmstead workgroup is researching the construction of these facilities.

Service Options for Children with Developmental Disabilities – Steve said that a plan has been proposed within DHHR for building group homes for children in the state. He stated that these trends show a reduction of support for community supports.

Richard said that it sounds like the beginnings of an institution for children

Jim P. said that he feels that it is a positive move because they are closing larger group homes and building smaller group homes. A discussion ensued.

Steve stated that the residential buildings at Green Acres are not getting smaller. The state is allowing the addition of more group home facilities in the community. He said that the decertification of the ICF/MR beds could be automatically converted to Waiver slots to be used in the community.

Jim P. said that WV currently lacks enough Waiver slots to meet the needs of eligible and future eligible people.

Libby stated that there are not enough services. Parents are over-extended, and the only options that they are given is a bed in a group home.

Jeannie stated that if any changes are made they should be positive changes, not changes which continue to support the same outdated medical models.

Jim P. restated that he felt that the changes made things better than they were last year. He stated that he felt that if there was a consumer satisfaction survey done at Green Acres, the response would be favorable.

Jan pointed out that people who have never experienced another option or if someone is afraid, they will report a high level of satisfaction with services received. A discussion ensued.

Sandy stated that she does not want to be forced into a group home. She wants to stay in her own home.

Jim C. stated that he is a former employee of Green Acres and a former director of ICF/MR group homes. He stated that most of the people who reside in them are not happy. He stated that the operational philosophy of the Green Acres facility is very institutional, regimented and lacking in personal choice. He said that many of the residents he knew had definite dreams of living away from Green Acres, and a discussion about group homes ensued.

Clint stated that he would rather die than be put into a group home. He said that the "group home philosophy" needs to be stopped.

Steve said that these particular homes may not be able to be stopped, but he is going to try to stop the construction of any new group homes. He wants to see the policy change.

Nursing Services - Steve stated that there are rising concerns about the over-medicalization of the Waiver program. He said that nursing services are being forced onto people and that staff are currently researching nursing practices.

Jim P. gave an overview of the Bureau of Medical Services' policies regarding these practices and a discussion ensued.

Steve asked how interested individuals and groups should have input regarding the harmful changes taking place. Jim P. said that the policy will come out first and then the MR/DD Handbook will come out. He said that there is a short turn around as to when the manuals are coming out and that there is not enough time for outside comment.

Laura asked Jim P. for an update on the A/D and MR/DD Waiver programs. Jim said that he did not have information on the A/D Waiver. He said that as of July 1, there will be 3,694 individuals on the MR/DD Waiver. He said that there is a chance that there will be no money for additional Waiver slots.

Plan Update: Steve stated that the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) has notified Council staff that Council's State Plan is much larger and more complex than most other states. As a result, staff have made recommendations to overhaul and streamline the Plan. Each of the five program committees also have had an opportunity to edit the Plan.

Jim C. gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to the State Plan. He stated that the Council's Plan had many more goals and objectives than other states. He said that the proposed Plan has been reduced to about 1/3 of its size. Please see attached.

He stated that there still needs to be measures attached to the Goals and Strategies contained in the Plan. Objective statements need to be re-written so that strategy plans and activities can be measured.

Laura suggested approving the Plan as revised, but bring the Plan back under review at the July meeting once the objective statement measures have been added.

Sandy made and Clint seconded to approve the Plan at its current state of revision.

Motion carried.

Call For Investments: Steve stated that the Call For Investment (CFI) has been pulled together from the Goals and Objectives of the State Plan with extensive input from each of the Committees as to what kinds of projects they would like to see funded to meet specified outcomes.

Jim reviewed the expected outcomes for each of the Areas of Emphasis that were compiled by each of the Committees. Please see attached.

Libby made and Karen seconded a motion to issue a Call For Investments Notice for up to \$170,000 to fund grants starting October 1, 2004.

Motion carried.

Clint made and Sandy seconded a motion to target the Plan objectives as presented.

Motion carried.

Announcements:

Jeannie announced that the Disability Caucus will be held July 18 – 20, 2004 at the Charleston Marriot Hotel.

Laura stated that May's Executive Committee Meeting will be held during the Leadership retreat.

Adjournment:

Clint made and Jeannie seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm